

TRAWDEN

Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1906.

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Trawden Urban Sanitary District.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you for your consideration my fourth Annual Report, for the year 1906, which in some respects compares favourably with that for the previous year, and in other respects is not so satisfactory.

Trade in Trawden during the past year has been good, providing plenty of employment for the inhabitants, and the prosperity and contented thrift of the people have had a good effect on their health.

The greatest mortality was in the months of April and May, five deaths being registered in each month. In March there were no deaths, and in the months of June, July, and October there was one death notified in each month.

The Death Rate is low.

The Infantile Death Rate is also low, but larger than in last year's report—and larger than one would wish to see—and less than for the average of the last ten years.

The Birth Rate is higher than in 1905, but slightly less than the average of the last ten years. I may point out that the number of births and the birth rate for the last four years is much larger than for the four years preceding.

The Estimated Population for 1905 was 2,840. There were 730 inhabited houses, an increase of 25 since 1905. The average number of inhabitants to each house was 3·8.

The Sanitary Condition of the houses is good. The newly built houses are excellent, and the same applies to all houses built within the last 25 years. In the old property, the houses are all comfortable, in good repair, and greatly improved in every way.

There is no overcrowding. I know of no house insufficiently large for proper accommodation.

Thirty-four Deaths were registered, an increase of 4 on the number registered in 1905, but a considerable decrease on the average for the last ten years.

There were 18 deaths of males and 16 of females.

This in a population of 2840, gives a **Death Rate** of 11·9, which is low and very satisfactory.

Although not so low as that for last year, it is much lower than the average for the last ten years. This death rate speaks well for the health, comfort, and general sanitation of Trawden.

There were **73 Births Registered**, 40 males and 33 females, an increase of 3 on the number in 1905. This gives a **Birth Rate** of 25·7 per 1000 inhabitants.

There were two illegitimate births registered.

I regret that I cannot give a good report as regards Infectious Disease.

The **Zymotic Rate** is high. The district was visited by two severe epidemics during the past year—Measles and Scarlet Fever.

In May there was a severe epidemic of Measles, 60 cases being ascertained in that month. The disease spread rapidly, in many cases every child in an infected house being attacked. In early June the epidemic was over, only three cases being ascertained in that month. It was found necessary to close the Winewall Council School on May 9th for a fortnight, which considerably curtailed the number and severity of the cases.

I prepared a special report on the epidemic.

There was also an outbreak of Scarlet Fever in 1906. In April 3 cases were notified, and since then notifications have been made every

month, most occurring in July, August, September and November. In all 59 cases have been notified. Every effort was made to check the epidemic, by keeping members of infected families from school,—by disinfection, and as far as possible, by isolation. The epidemic is now practically at an end.

I consider it my duty to say that many cases would not have occurred but for want of consideration on the part of several parents of affected children. There were several cases of gross carelessness and negligence. Some convalescent children, with the skin peeling off them, and in a highly infectious state, were allowed to play in the streets with healthy children, thus greatly increasing the epidemic. On the other hand great praise is due to many who took every precaution to prevent the spread of the disease.

I must again protest against the habit of sending school children with notes to the houses of absent scholars to enquire as to the cause of absence. In many cases the absence of a school child is caused by infectious disease, and the messenger, who should be at his studies, runs the risk of infection, and through him others in the school.

Indeed, considering the number of cases, and the obstacles to be overcome in stamping out the disease, it is a matter for congratulation that only one death was reported. Many children were very dangerously ill, some with complications from inflammation of the kidneys and of the throat, and but for good nursing and other aids, the number of deaths would have been much greater.

There was one death from non-notifiable disease, viz :—Measles.

There was one case of **Enteric Fever**, and five cases of **Erysipelas**.

I here give a tabulation of the zymotic diseases notified, with the ages at which they occurred.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1906.

NOTIFIED DISEASES.	At all Ages.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 65 years.	Total.
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	5	—	1	—	4	5
Scarlet Fever	59	21	34	3	1	59
Totals.....	65	21	35	3	6	65

There were thus in all 65 cases of **Notifiable Infectious Disease**, giving per 1000 of the population a Zymotic Rate of 22·8.

The **Zymotic Death Rate** per 1000 is ·7.

I am glad to call attention to the **Low Infant Death Rate**, although I regret that it is not so low as in 1905. Out of **73 Births Registered, 8 Infants died**. This gives an **Infant Death Rate of 109** per 1000 births registered. This rate is much lower than the average for England, and much below the average for Lancashire, and would have been even lower but for the fact that several of the deaths were of weakly infants, prematurely born, who had no possible chance of surviving the first year of life.

The usual causes of Infantile Mortality are **Neglect, Exposure, and Improper Feeding**. One case which was the subject of a Coroner's Inquest, may be classed under all these heads, but I am glad to say it was not so in other cases.

Of two children--twins, one died 5 hrs. after birth, the other surviving only 15 days. In both cases the cause of death was premature birth and debility. Three deaths were caused by Weakness from Birth at the ages of 15 days, 25 days and 1 month respectively. The other deaths occurred at the ages of 1 month and 5 months, one caused by Gastritis, one by Bronchitis, and the remaining one, a child aged 1 month, was the subject of a Coroner's Inquest.

I here give tables, showing the ages at and causes of infant death, and also the month in which they occurred.

CAUSE OF INFANT DEATHS AND AGES AT DEATH.

	Premature Birth.	Weakness from Birth,	Gastritis.	Bronchitis.	Coroner's Inquest.	Totals.
Under 1 month.....	2	2	—	—	—	4
Over 1 and under 3 months.....	—	1	1	—	1	3
Over 3 and under 6 months.....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	2	3	1	1	1	8

CAUSE of INFANT DEATHS and the MONTHS when REGISTERED.

This table shows the causes of all infant deaths, and the months of the year in which they occurred.

DISEASE.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Totals.
Premature Birth	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Weakness from Birth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Gastrites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Coroner's Case	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals.....	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	8

There were six deaths from **Respiratory Diseases**, giving a Respiratory Death Rate of 2·1 per 1,000 of the population.

There were two deaths from Phthisis, at the ages of 12 years and 57 years respectively, giving a **Phthisis Death Rate** of ·7 per 1,000 of the population.

The following table gives the causes of and ages at death from all diseases for the district :—

CAUSE OF AND AGES AT DEATH, DURING THE YEAR 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'd	Total
Heart Disease	5	—	—	—	1	2	2	5
Pulmonary Disease (Pneumonia & Bronchitis)	6	1	1	1	—	3	—	6
Phthisis	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cancer	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Premature Birth.....	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Coroner's Cases.....	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Weakness from Birth ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Rheumatic Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
All other causes.....	6	—	2	1	1	1	1	6
Totals.....	34	8	5	5	2	9	5	34

The number of deaths in the 1st year was	8
Between 1 year and under 5 years	5
From 5 years and under 15 years	5
From 15 years and under 25 years	2
From 25 years and under 65 years	9
From 65 years and upwards	5
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Total	34
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The **Average Age at Death** was **27 years**.

The following table shows the cause of death at all ages and the number registered each month.

CAUSE OF DEATH AT ALL AGES, AND NUMBER REGISTERED EACH MONTH.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Heart Disease	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	5
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Phthisis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cancer.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Premature Birth.....	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Coroner's Case	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Weakness from Birth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
All Other Causes	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	6
Totals ... 34	3	3	—	5	5	1	1	4	3	4	1	4	34

House Refuse.—The removal of this is performed satisfactorily, and it is deposited in disused quarries.

Water Supply.—Trawden has now an abundant supply of excellent water, which has been conveyed from the boring on Boulsworth, and carried by pipes to the houses in the village. The quality is perfect and the deficiency of water is now at an end.

Slaughter Houses.—These are all in good condition. No unsound meat.

Bake Houses.—Three. All in good condition.

Dairies.—None.

Cowsheds and Milkshops.—Some of the cowsheds are in good condition. The shippens are well ventilated and kept clean, and the cattle are well housed and comfortable. This, however, does not apply to all the cowsheds. Many are low-roofed and dirty and the cattle appear ill-kept and uncomfortable. Milk and Butter being of such paramount importance in the food supply, I cannot too strongly urge the Council to adopt regulations to secure the purity of these foods. They cannot possibly be good and clean if the cattle from whom they are obtained are suffering discomfort from lack of care. The fact which has been obvious for a long time, is now acknowledged, that the Tuberculous Disease of cattle is identical with the same disease in man, capable of transmission from one to the other, and caused by the same organism in each. There is absolutely no doubt that many cases of Human Tuberculosis are caused by the consumption of milk taken from a cow suffering from the disease.

Cattle should be inspected frequently, and special notice should be taken of the condition of the udder of each cow. It is held that no cow, however tuberculous its lungs and other organs may be, can transmit the germs of disease through the milk, unless the udder be affected also. The scales on a tuberculous udder are dislodged during the process of milking, fall into the milk, and it becomes tainted with the disease. Many cases of Tuberculosis of obscure origin are caused in this way. Children contract Bone Disease, Consumption of the Bowels, and Meningitis, and the cause of the complaint is nearly always milk contaminated in the way

described. Any cow with a diseased udder is not fit for producing milk or butter.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis, or Tubercle of the Lungs, is usually caused by the breathing of dust containing Tubercle Bacilli which are set free by the drying of sputum, and is generally transmitted from man to man.

Lodging Houses.—None.

Factories and Workshops.—The sanitary condition of the factories is now much improved. Cleanliness is enforced and a much pleasanter state of things exists. The Sanitary Inspector makes monthly visits.

The Council have at present under consideration plans and methods of utilising the abundance of water to place the Sanitary Accommodation of the mills in a perfect condition. It is intended to have sanitary arrangements on the Water System. They are also arranging the necessary fire escapes for the mills, ready for use should they at any time be required.

The mills are kept clean, periodically whitewashed, and are well ventilated.

The Workshops are all in good order.

Methods of dealing with Infectious Disease:—Isolation, as far as possible, Fumigation, Disinfection and General Cleanliness.

Scavenging—Done by employees of the Council.

Sewage—The sewage works are in good order, and working satisfactorily.

House Accommodation—Very good. No overcrowding. Even the older houses in the district are in good condition, and sanitary.

NUISANCES.—Mr. Tatham reports as follows: “One notice to abate a nuisance was served, and the nuisance was abated.

Three nuisances have been abated owing to the Inspector sending notes calling attention to them, and five have been abated owing to him

calling attention to them by a personal visit. There are two nuisances still in abeyance.

The mill sanitary conveniences have greatly improved during the year."

In conclusion, I have very great pleasure in presenting my report and hope that my future reports may continue to be as satisfactory.

Appended are Vital Statistics for 1906 and the previous years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

168, Keighley Road,
Colne, March 6th, 1907.

GEORGE SKEEN.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1906 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	*Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		*Rate.	Number.	*Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.			
1896	2449	76	31.0	14	184	19.1	47	19.1
1897	2500	81	32.4	7	87	15.2	38	15.2
1898	2525	82	32.8	14	170	14.8	37	14.8
1899	2545	62	24.5	15	241	18.6	47	18.6
1900	2565	69	26.93	12	174	15.2	39	15.2
1901	2641	58	21.96	8	137	13.21	34	13.21
1902	2727	58	21.2	5	86	11.73	32	11.73
1903	2750	75	27.3	4	53.3	12.8	34	12.8
1904	2780	73	26.2	17	232.8	20.5	57	20.5
1905	2800	70	25	6	85.4	10.7	30	10.7
Averages for years 1896-1905.	2628	70	26.9	10	145	15.1	39	15.1
1906	2840	73	25.7	8	109	11.9	34	11.9

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 10 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

VITAL STATISTICS IN 1906 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1896	2449	76	47	14
1897	2500	81	38	7
1898	2525	82	37	14
1899	2545	62	47	15
1900	2565	69	39	12
1901	2641	58	34	8
1902	2727	58	32	5
1903	2750	75	34	4
1904	2780	73	57	17
1905	2800	70	30	6
Average of years 1896 to 1905 }	2628	70	39	10
1906	2840	73	34	8

